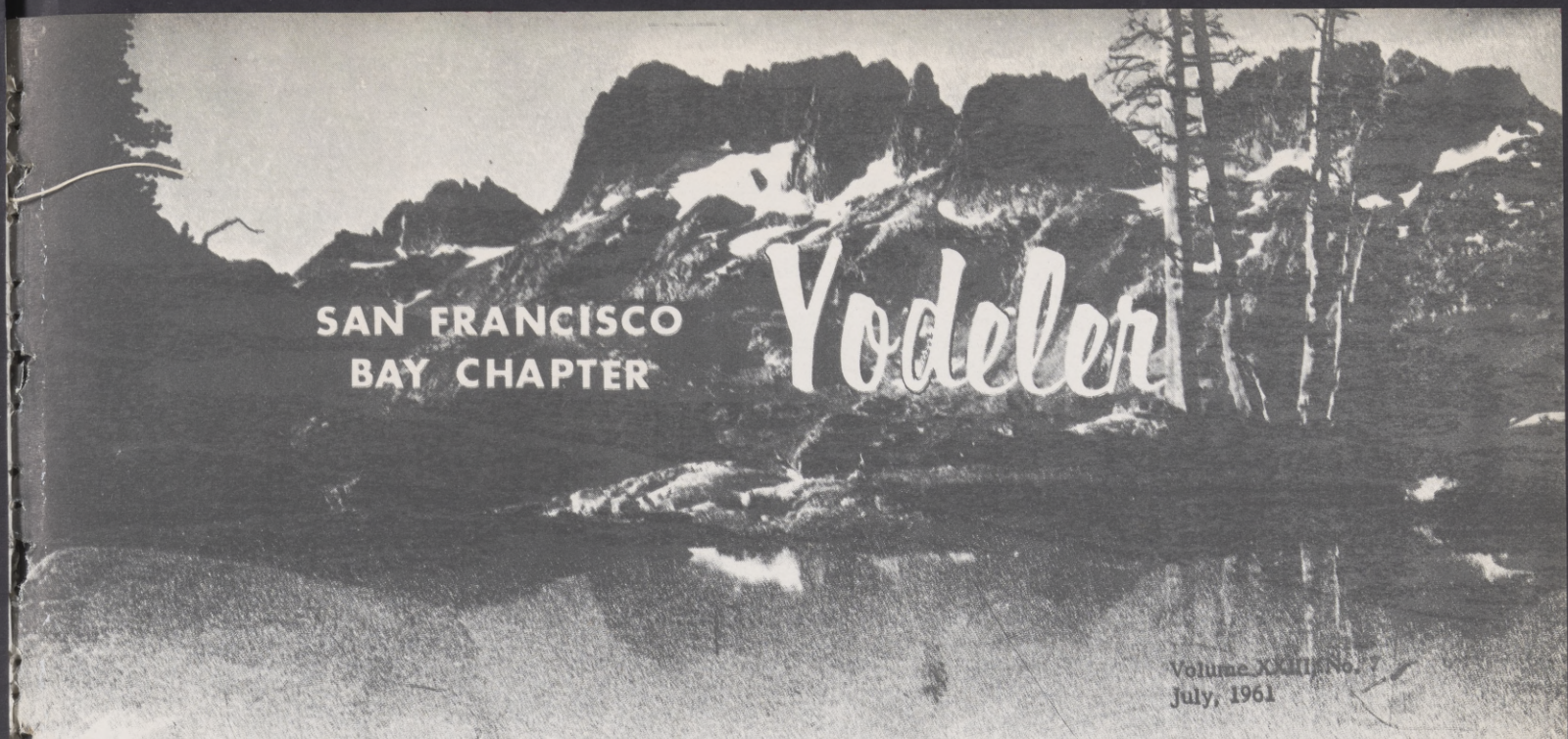

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Yodeler

Volume XXIII, No. 7
July, 1961

MUD AT THE FOOT OF RAINBOW

The Outdoor Newsletter on "Rainbow Bridge and the Quicksands of Time" is one of the most effective publications the Sierra Club has ever produced. History, maps, pictures, engineering sections and diagrams —it tells the whole story. Beg, borrow or buy it to see what will happen to Rainbow Bridge if the promised protection (which is required by the law permitting construction of Glen Canyon Dam) is stinted or delayed too long and the reservoir level is allowed to creep up under the famous natural bridge.

Many people sigh to think of the lovely side valleys along Glen Canyon buried under water, yet imagine there might still be beauty in cliffs rising from the calm water of a lake. The reality is quite different, as these photographs of lower Glen Canyon and of the edges of Lake Mead show most clearly—a reality of smothering mud, impenetrable growth of rank shrubs, alkali-stain and general desolation in those once-beautiful canyons with their delicate fern gardens and clean pools.

Who can keep the mud out of Rainbow Bridge National Monument? The Newsletter lists the principals. The Congress, especially the Interior Appropriations Committee of House and Senate; Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall; and You, who, after all, own the Monument, and can make it quite clear that you want to keep it unspoiled. —C.M.C.

APPEAL. CIRCULATION DEPT.

Please let the Yodeler know when you move. The Sierra Club office is a big place now, so please send a separate card to the Yodeleditor, and your Yodelers are more likely to keep coming to you without interruption.

THE CONSERVATION FRONT - LATE BULLETINS

In Sacramento, bills tumbled out of the Legislature just before adjournment in such confusion that details are vague. In any case they must wait for the Governor's signature, or veto. The State Park Commission has regained some of its former policy-making powers.*

Something has been done which is supposed to control billboards along scenic roads, though so weak a bill that the Scenic Roads Association and the Roadside Council withdrew their support of the bill, (one provision allows signs within 1000 feet of any commercial structure). The Legislature allowed a Joint Resolution in favor of the Mammoth Pass trans-Sierra road to be pushed through and sent to Congress, which is thereby encouraged to appropriate the money for construction at some future time.

In Washington, the Department of the Interior has made a generous offer to sell some surplus lands to the States for park and recreation purposes at a great reduction of the usual cost. About 1000 acres adjacent to Mt. Diablo State Park could be bought under this plan, but it is of no use to offer a bargain to a beggar and the State Department of Beaches and Parks apparently has nothing in its pocket. Somewhere, somehow, some state money should be found to take advantage of this offer.

In San Francisco, a grand new plan to streamline city government and finances included a proposal to raise three million by selling some of the parks and playgrounds. That indicates that the time is here when every green breathing space needs an army to defend it. —C.M.C.

*(Note: Joseph Houghteling, Sunnyvale editor, is the new chairman of the State Park Commission. Mr. Houghteling has been a Sierra Club member for the past two years.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PONDERS MEMBERSHIP

The June session of the Chapter Executive Committee—the last before the summer interlude—met under pleasant conditions at the house of Chairman Bruce Grant. A pot-luck supper, with additional refreshments provided by the charming Bernice Grant, put the members in a jovial mood for a long session chiefly on conservation and membership questions.

There were a number of hopeful reports from those who had led some of the regional get-togethers in May, reported in the last Yodeler. The committee considered a number of ways to follow up on the interest expressed by some of the non-members who attended, with a view to gathering more conservation-and-outdoors-minded Bay Area people into the Club fold.

The Committee also considered means of following up the dues-delinquents who now, after six months, are allowed to drop out of membership. Many of these probably could be saved from perdition if their status could be learned more quickly and follow-up cards or phone calls could be used.

The Committee heard a somewhat negative report on the state of the Juniors in a letter from Anita Suran and a statement from Susan Langstroth. The section has had ragged attendance—some very well attended prize trips, like skiing, but others that had to be cancelled for lack of sign-up. It appeared that initiative was lacking among juniors; adults have had to provide the leadership; whenever that failed, the trips were likely to do so too. Leaders from other junior groups gave a more hopeful prognosis, but they too confirmed that the key to a successful junior activity is adult leadership.

At Bruce Grant's suggestion, the Committee agreed that Junior activities in the future might well be regionalized, rather than Chapter-wide. --P.D.W.

Sierra Club Yodeler

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For club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The 'enterprise' rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

YODELER STAFF
Peter Whitney, Editor

Ted Allemann Frances Whitney
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Editorial Work Night: July 24

Volume XXIII, No. 7 July, 1961

NOTICE

As always, please send Yodeler contributions in to The Mills Tower, marked as such on the envelope. BUT for those who have special things to say, the Yodeleditor's summer address is:

Peter D. Whitney
Inverness, Calif.

WANTED GUIDES FOR VISITORS

If you (or anyone you know) are over 45 years of age, qualified and available for employment "on call" up to at least 16 hours per week as a GUIDE for small groups, please telephone Sierra Club member Mrs. Nello Kearney, PRospect 6-3850 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., preferably 8 to 10 a.m., Monday through Friday, before July 15.

This is a project to develop employment for older workers and is an opportunity for conservation education. Nello initiated the project as the Coordinator of Services to Older Workers, California Department of Employment, San Francisco.

LAST THING

Life insurance is the last thing on earth a man wants — and then he can't get it.

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RIVER TOURING NOTES

The Section's four-day Eel River trip over Memorial Day weekend saw some sterling paddling by ten of our higher intermediates and experts. The cruise, through 45 miles of lonely valley that is only just short of true wilderness, promises to become an annual affair for those who can spare three or four days. This is big water, tumbling impatiently amoung big igneous blocks of vari-colored stone. Occasional trains on the Northwestern Pacific single-tract provide the only sign of man.

One innovation this year was the use of a raft to bring four non-paddlers (wives, friends, sightseers) along with the kayaks. Bryce Whitmore, himself a veteran of the peioneer Eel trip last year and also this spring's Pluvius run, was at the oars. Bryce dropped the ten-man blimp neatly through the narrowest slots, holding his fair passengers' bailing duties down to a minimum. And at the end of the trip, a lonely lumber town called Alderpoint, Bryce had the Lou Elliott truck ready to lift the kayaks and their paddlers out of the beautiful Eel Valley. Overhead, leaden clouds were pouring down more rain.

* * * * * *

Two weeks earlier a smaller party had peioneered 17 miles upstream on the Eel's main stem, discovering smaller water, easier rapids, and glorious lonely scenery. Unfortunately, they also discovered engineers' survey marks along the rocky banks, reminding them that the Eel is to have a series of dams fifteen or so years hence, to transfer Coast Range water down to the thirsty swimming pools and melon groves of the Southland.

Both Eel trips were made with food and camping gear in boats, a practice that is sufficiently rare in the River Touring Section to cause some comment. It is not a rarity at all back East; in fact, it is the most usual thing in the famous canoe areas of Maine, Canada, and Minnesota. It makes great stretches of country accessible as they could not be otherwise. On the second Eel weekend we passed a hiking couple who had penetrated but four miles downstream one day and would have to turn around and hike out the next, while we were far downstream.

* * * * * *

The section has been intensely preoccupied with getting ready for the Pacific Invitational Slalom and Downriver Race, which will have been held on the Feather River by the time you read this. Industrious members have slaved away in garages painting barber-stripes on bamboo poles, screwing hooks and eyes into spacers; others have repeatedly scouted the race site and petitioned the magnanimous P.G. & E. for the needed head of water—just high enough but not too high. We'll tell you about it next time! —P.D.W.

WANDERVOEGEL

The Executive Secretary of the Sierra Club, Dave Brower, is in Europe for three months with his entire family. Six of them in a Volkswagen, camping from England to Austria.

Club Secretary Charlotte Mauk has been camping with Olaus Murie and Mrs. Murie in the farthest north of Alaska's Brooks Range, home of caribou and wolf, where one sleeps in the "daytime" and walks and works in the cooler "night time" though the sun goes round and round and never sets.

Retiring Club Director Harold Bradley and Ruth Bradley are in the far north also, watching the midnight sun from the northern tip of Norway. —C.M.C.

HASTE MAKES WASTE

Reprinted from the Sierra Echo

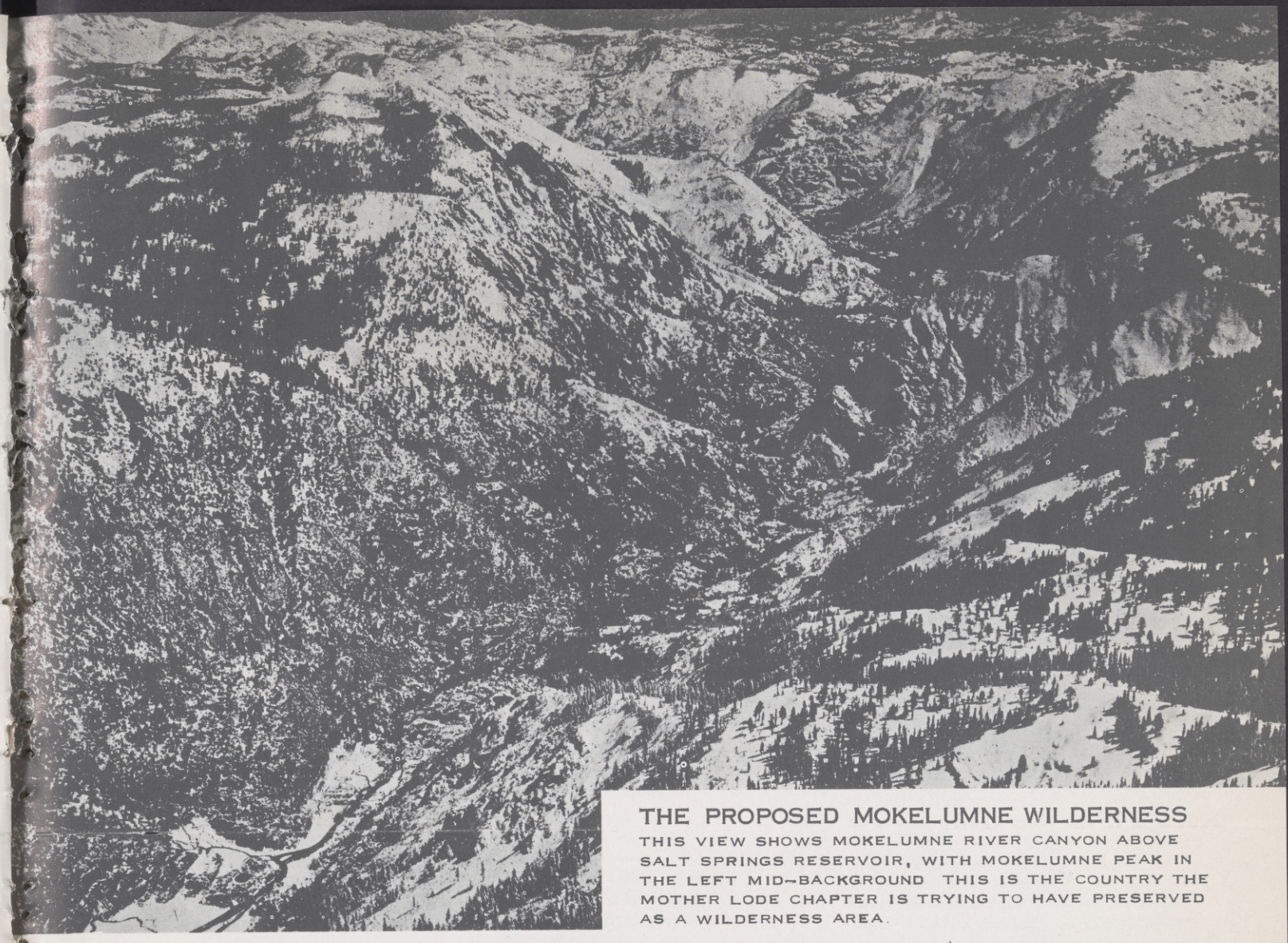
17 SPSers and guests, out to climb Sherman Peak on April 1, thought themselves thwarted at the locked gate blocking the Brush Creek logging road. Hiking from there would involve an extra 12 miles. However, Bud Bingham, Andy Smatko, and John Robinson managed to find a ranger in Johnsondale who had such a high respect for Sierra Clubbers that he drove down and unlocked the barrier.

By 10 a.m. the group managed to get started up the ultra-steep mining road that winds half way up Sherman from the southwest. The sun was warm and the sky clear as we hiked the "road" until it fizzled out and thence up a conglomeration of snow, brush, and rock to the summit - a 3 1/2 hour hike with 4000' gain.

The summit view was inspiring. In a great panoramic arc from northwest to northeast were symmetrical Farewell Gap, the jagged Kaweah Ridge, the deep Kern River trench and rugged Kings-Kern Divide, the towering Whitney group, and isolated but majestic Olancha - all glistening with their thick mantle of snow. Partially detracting from the beauty was the debris remains of an old fire lookout on our peak; perhaps an SPS work party could someay remove this unnatural scar from the mountain.

We descended the mountain at a leisurely but steady pace - all but one. This hiker was hell-bent on reaching the car first, tore past the group, and got lost in a rugged side canyon. The main group was delayed at the cars several hours shouting, honking horns, and planning a search. The tired hiker finally stumbled into camp just before dark, sadder but wiser.

There is a lesson to be learned from this experience. On cross-country trailless hikes the leader must insist that the group stay together. A firm attitude in this respect may win no friends but it should prevent members of the party from getting lost or injured. —John Robinson



THE PROPOSED MOKELUMNE WILDERNESS

THIS VIEW SHOWS MOKELUMNE RIVER CANYON ABOVE SALT SPRINGS RESERVOIR, WITH MOKELUMNE PEAK IN THE LEFT MID-BACKGROUND. THIS IS THE COUNTRY THE MOTHER LODE CHAPTER IS TRYING TO HAVE PRESERVED AS A WILDERNESS AREA.

CLAIR TAPPAAN IN SUMMER

Old man Winter has folded up his white blanket. Underneath is found the beautiful patchwork of mountain Spring and Summer.

Whichever time of the year you usually visit the Sierra, you will enjoy the chance of discovering the beauty of the mountain wilderness in all seasons.

You skiers, have you ever wondered what these mountains offer when the mantle of white is removed? For a start, there are hiking, fishing, swimming, water skiing and just plain sitting. One of the pleasantest ways to take full advantage of the area is to stay at Clain Tappaan Lodge on Donner Summit.

For those of you not acquainted with Clair Tappaan Lodge, it is located on Highway 40 at Norden, California; approximately 90 miles east of Sacramento. The accommodations are quite flexible with two bunk cubicles, a women's dorm, a men's dorm and "family" rooms ranging from five bunks to eleven. No towels or bedding are furnished.

What is furnished in abundance is good hot food for breakfast and dinner. Materials for bag lunches are provided: you pack your own. Because of the small permanent staff, each person who takes a meal at the lodge is asked to perform a chore, i.e., table setting, serving, dishes, housework, etc. For families, a baby sitter is provided by the Lodge who will sit with any brood for $1 per day per child.

Evening entertainment at the Lodge is supplied by the members themselves: folk dancing, bridge, slides or reading. For those who wish both, both Reno and Stateline are but an hour's drive away.

For more information on rates or to make your reservation write Manager, Clair Tappaan Lodge, Norden, California.

—Roberta Huber

WANTED: 1 ice ax and 1 pr. crampons for size 11 boots. Call HO 1-0300 evenings.

FOR LEASE: Squaw Valley Chalet. Delightful, Comfortable, Charming! One year minimum term commencing July 1st. Reasonable rate. Write Joe Brower, Birmensdorferstr. 16, Uitikon a/A Zurich.

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SOME EXCHANGE TRIPS

The following events are selected from the outing schedules of other chapters, with the thought that you might like to adventure farther afield on your weekend walks and field trips. For further information get in touch with the leader or the chapter sponsoring the outing (if written reply is requested, include a self-addressed, STAMPED envelope), or phone me (TH 1-2442).
—Margaret Gwinn

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

SUNDAY, JULY 23. HIKE THROUGH SCHILLING ESTATE, WOODSIDE. Leader: Bill Bancroft, DAvenport 3-7098 (8 a.m.) Meet at 9 a.m. at entrance to Searsville Lake. Will hike through redwoods, oaks, and madrones, to lunch site near Skyline Blvd. Fine views.

SUNDAY, JULY 30. HIKE ALONG SAWYER RIDGE. Leader: George Halcrow, 23 Second Avenue, San Mateo. Meet at 9:30 a.m., 4 mi. west from San Mateo, at Crystal Springs Dam on Skyline Blvd. Seven mi. circular hike, 1200 climb. Views of ocean and bay.

MOTHER LODE CHAPTER

SATURDAY, JULY 1, through TUESDAY, JULY 4. BRISTLECONE PINES, WHITE MOUNTAIN. Leader: Jim Lague, P.O. Box 241, Wheatland, NE 3-2726 (512 - 3rd St.) Coordinator: Dagmar Linnet, 2210 I St., Sacramento, GL 8-0924. Joint trip with Placer Camera Club. Photography in Patriarch Grove on Sunday and hiking Monday. Gas up at Big Pine on Hwy. 395 and drive east to Westgard Pass, and left at big sign. 20 mi. of dirt road. Car campers meet at Schulman campground Saturday evening. Elev., 10,500 ft. Bring water. Contact leader, if going.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, JULY 22-23. MT. MILDRED. Leader: Homer Ibsen, GL 1-5783, 5308 Shepard, Sacramento 19. Coordinator: Mary Ann Miller, IVanhoe 3-7630, 6112 Mauer Ave., Carmichael. Meet at Foresthill Ranger Sta. at 9 a.m. and proceed on Mosquito Access road to Talbot Campground, about 40 mi. Climb Mt. Mildred in proposed wilderness area, 12 mi. round trip, 2800 ft. rise. Contact leader if going.

JULY 15-16: LEISURE KNAPSACKING — Desolation Valley. Change in leaders: Margaret B. Jones is no longer a co-leader; call Mary Nuessle at FIllmore 6-8494 who is co-ordinator for San Francisco, or Vivienne Bryan, LAndscape 4-5211, co-ordinator for East Bay. Reservations limited to 25.

FEATHER MIDDLE FORK THREATENED BY DAMS

(Reprinted from Mother Lode Bonanza)

The Middle Fork of the Feather River may be ruined as an aesthetically beautiful river and its now fabulous trout fishing may become just a memory.

The threat is posed by the Richvale Irrigation District which proposes to construct six dams on this river.

Those who love white water as Nature made it and everyone who is willing to expend a little energy to enjoy some of the finest trout fishing to be found anywhere in the State of California will lose in order that an area which could be served by Oroville Dam will get a water supply.

The dams are not high and most of the reservoirs are small. Except for two locations, the land surrounding the prospective reservoirs will fluctuate, making them undesirable to trout and certainly not pretty to see. The water will be piped in tunnels and into powerhouses with only a small amount of water left in the by-passed river bed.

Thus the Middle Fork will become like its sister river, the North Fork of the Feather. Both flow through similar watersheds, are essentially the same.

Plumas County, site of most of the proposed construction, understands the threat and is fighting desperately to keep the dams out of the Middle Fork. The County wants the Middle Fork Canyon preserved as a recreation area.

Those who enjoy outdoor recreation in primitive areas can help defeat this scheme if they write to the Water Rights Board, 21st and N Streets, Sacramento, stating that the Middle Fork of the Feather River should be preserved for recreation, and requesting that the Richvale Irrigation District application be denied.

—Dick Laursen, George Dobbins-

Editor's Note: The Middle Fork is the only river in California that a University of California researcher would accept among many nominated as true "wilderness" streams by the River Touring Section. The report was for a forthcoming Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission study: the criteria were strict, and rejected many glorious Western streams because of small incursions of civilization or over-short unspoiled stretches.

FREE LECTURE SERIES

The University of the Pacific offers a talk on Fallout and Food Chains at Tomales Bay High School, Tomales, on June 30 at 8 p.m. This is one of a series to be given every Friday night until July 28. In the fallout talk, Evan Cyfeiliog Evans III, a biophysicist from Navy Radiology laboratory at Hunter's Point, will discuss the manner in which potentially radioactive materials are transferred through such natural channels as grass to cows to children.

On July 7, Professor Frank A. Pitelka of the University of California will clear up some popular misconceptions about the lemmings in Alaska, and on July 14, Professor Cadet H. Hand, also of the University, will illustrate his talk about the great coral shore of Australia with a fine collection of slides taken during a year's stay there.

Dr. John A. Knauss, at Scripps Institution of Oceanography for several years, will discuss recent discoveries of ocean currents, particularly the Cromwell Current, the major current in the Pacific Ocean that flows the "wrong way." The series will end with a talk by Dr. John A. McGowan, of the Scripps staff and a visiting member at Pacific Marine Station, who will recount his experiences as fishery officer in Palau.

On the Saturday lecture - July 1 - Professor Papenfuss will conduct a seaweed excursion starting at 7:30 a.m. from Pacific Marine Station.